

Committee on Ways and Means

United States-Oman Free Trade Agreement

Oman is an Invaluable Ally in the War on Terror

- On April 21, 1980, just after the Iranian Islamic Revolution, Oman became the first Persian Gulf state to formalize defense relations with the United States, allowing U.S. forces access to Omani military facilities.
- Oman has granted all U.S.-requested access, overflight and basing for operations in Iraq and Afghanistan that are critical to protecting our troops. In 2005 alone, this included approximately:
 - 4,000 aircraft overflights
 - 350 aircraft landings
 - 16 ship dockings.
- Oman hosted thousands of U.S. personnel during recent major U.S. combat operations in Afghanistan and Iraq.
 - 4,300 U.S. personnel during Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan.
 - 3,750 U.S. personnel during Operation Iraqi Freedom
- Oman hosts the second largest U.S. War Reserve Material in the region covering both Iraq and Afghanistan.
- After the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, Oman issued new laws to prevent terrorist organizations from raising or laundering money in Oman. The State Department's report on global terrorism for 2004 noted that Oman has demonstrated a commitment to freezing assets of suspected Al Qaeda members and other terrorists.
- On November 22, 2005, Oman joined the U.S. Container Security Initiative, allowing the United States to prescreen U.S.-bound cargo to protect our citizens.
- Oman's importance to the United States will only grow with its key geographic position at the mouth of the Persian Gulf.
- The 9/11 Commission specifically cited moving forward on FTA's with our Middle Eastern allies as critical to our efforts in the War on Terror.
- **Voting against this strong ally would send a devastating message to the people of the Middle East and countries that stand by the United States in the War on Terror and specifically reject the recommendation of the 9/11 Commission.**